



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: AUGUST 2, 2011

As many of you are aware, National Night Out (NNO) is celebrating its 28th Anniversary on August 2, 2011. The Torrance Police Department has promoted this event for over 10 years.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities. These include block parties, cookouts and visits from local police.

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.

If you and your neighbors are planning to participate in this event by hosting a block party, please contact us by Friday July 25th, 2011 so we have a chance to stop by. Please be prepared to give us your name, the address of the party and the number of participants.

Please contact Community Affairs at 310-618-6392 for more information on how you can participate in this fantastic event.

Designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

www.Police.TorranceCA.gov
[www.Facebook.com/TorrancePD](https://www.facebook.com/TorrancePD)
[www.Twitter.com/TorrancePD](https://twitter.com/TorrancePD)
[www.YouTube.com/User/CommAffaris](https://www.youtube.com/user/CommAffaris)

Keeping your home safe while you are away on vacation.....

The Torrance Police Department would like to wish you all a happy and safe summer. We know that this is the perfect time to get away and recharge your batteries. We have some tips to help keep your home safe while you are gone:

- Have a good lock on all doors and windows and use them.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number (preceded by a "CA") or other identification number. Torrance Police Department has engravers you can sign out to engrave your property. For additional information contact Community Affairs
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of a door.



- Stop all deliveries or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.

The Torrance Police Department also offers Vacation Security Checks. While you are away, officers from the Torrance Police Department will periodically stop by your home to check for open doors, broken windows or any other suspicious circumstances. This is another added security precaution you can utilize to safeguard your possessions and assure your peace of mind while you are on vacation. This is

a free service provided by the Torrance Police Department to the citizens of Torrance. To sign up for a Vacation Security Check, log on to our website at www.Police.TorranceCA.gov and click on the "Online Services" tab. The information requested on the form will be entered into our dispatch system so that our Patrol Officers will be notified at the beginning of their shift and be reminded to check your residence while you are away.

Please feel free to complete the form and submit it so that our officers have the opportunity to provide you with the level of service you deserve as a Torrance resident. If you have any questions regarding this service, you can contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391/6392.

From our Detective Division

The Torrance Police Department wants you to help reduce auto burglaries in fitness centers and business parking lots, by remembering these parking lot safety tips:

- ♦ Do not leave valuables in your vehicle; when possible, leave them at home.
- ♦ Do not leave gym bags, purses, briefcases, etc. in plain view.
- ♦ Do not "hide" your purse in the trunk after you have parked.
- ♦ Do not leave GPS or cell phone chargers in the outlet.
- ♦ Lock your doors and close your windows completely.
- ♦ Notify police if you see suspicious activity.



Auto Burglars will:

- ♦ Sit in the parking lot and watch you come and go.
- ♦ They will watch you hide your purse under the seat or in the trunk.
- ♦ They are better at seeing you than you are at seeing them...it's what they do for a living.
- ♦ Opportunists will walk around a parking lot, lifting door handles to see who left their vehicle unlocked.

Don't be a victim... protect yourself and your property.

If you notice suspicious activity, report it immediately to the Torrance Police Department at (310)328-3456. For crimes in progress, call 9-1-1.



JOIN A TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT DISASTER VOLUNTEER TEAM

DISASTER SERVICE VOLUNTEER

The City of Torrance is currently welcoming citizens to volunteer their time in helping the City with disaster prevention, planning, response and recovery. Each Disaster Service Volunteer (DSV) must successfully pass a fingerprint and background check. See which group is best for you. Several DSV's are members of more than one group. Please contact us and see what it is like to be a partner with the City of Torrance in serving as a DSV.

ADT

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The Animal Disaster Team (ADT) was formed to provide care and sheltering of animals impacted by disasters. Under the direction of the Torrance Animal Control, the ADT goal is to provide quality care in a timely, organized manner during a disaster. The mission will vary according to the magnitude of the disaster. The ADT can assist with pets allowing the police department, fire department and other disaster responders to concentrate their efforts on public safety. We encourage all pet owners to evacuate with their pets.



CERT

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The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates community members about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. A CERT DSV must pass the Fire Department CERT training class. We currently do not accept members from other CERT organizations.



TARA

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The Torrance Amateur Radio Association (TARA) provides emergency communications during a major communications outage. Utilizing a seven-band ham station coupled with licensed amateur radio operators stationed throughout the community, TARA ensures vital information is shared among first responders. Weekly meetings on the air are scheduled at 7:00pm Mondays for dissemination of local, District and Los Angeles County bulletins, and other emergency preparedness matters. Typically 400 hours are volunteered each month by TARA members in services to the City and County.

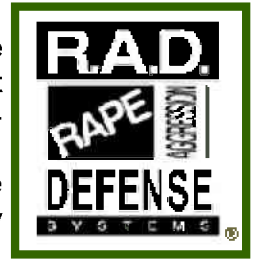




Upcoming Events:

RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE PROGRAM is a nationally recognized self-defense program for women. It is a free 12hr training seminar that will teach you how to protect yourself and the ones that you love by detecting, preventing and deterring violent encounters.

Our next session for the RAD program will be in the month of September (dates to be announced). For more information, log on to our website at www.police.TorranceCA.gov or call (310) 618-5675.



Community Safety Training Workshop

DATE: Wednesday August 24th

LOCATION: Torrance Police Department

TIME: 6:00 PM

TOPIC: Burglary Prevention

Learn how you can keep your home, vehicle and family safe from opportunistic criminals. This session will be presented by expert Torrance Police Department Detectives.

Thank You!!!



For the past five years I have had the privilege of being your Community Affairs Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. I can still remember my very first Neighborhood Watch meeting over on 180th Pl, I was so nervous but everyone made me feel welcomed.

It is safe to say that many things have changed in these years. First with the transformation of Community Affairs into it's own Division, and shortly after, the implementation of the Focus Based Policing model. Our Neighbor-

hood Watch meetings went from just having myself representing the Police Department to currently having multiple officers representing the various divisions (Patrol, Traffic, Detectives). With this new format, residents of Torrance are better connected to their Police Department. You have been trained on how to recognize and report suspicious activity, and you have also been reminded that you truly are the eyes and ears for this department.

Another important program that was adopted over these years was Map Your Neighborhood (MYN). Training neighbors how to be better prepared to protect themselves and help others in the event of a disaster.



There are many other events that we have shared that make me proud to be a part of this amazing community; your participation in National Night Out, your support for our Tip-A-Cop events, your participation in the different Safety Training Workshops, just to mention a few. It is now time to move on, I will be leaving Community Affairs to join the Torrance Police Department's Traffic Division. I will take with me the comfort of knowing that as residents of this great city, you will continue to be vigilant and prepared.



Thank you all,

Services Officer Luz Aceves

